GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5184
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the `Food For Work` programme launched by the Government; and

(b) the quantum of foodgrains allocated under the programme to each State during the last one year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) The Food for Work programme aims at to provide wage employment in rural areas in the notified drought affected districts in eight States. The Scheme will form a part of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and part of wages will be paid in the form of foodgrains, the cash component of the wages will be provided by the State Government from their resources. The details of the scheme are enclosed (Annexure-I).

(b) The quantum of foodgrains allocated/released during last one year (2000-2001) is as per Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5184 ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 20.04.2001.

FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION
During the year 2000-2001, the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan have received deficient rainfall during the South-West monsoon period leading to Drought like situation. The rainfall during the post monsoon period (1.10.2000 onwards) has also been scanty. Gujarat and Rajasthan were affected by severe drought last year also. It is reported that districts in Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttaranchal are also facing adrought like situation. In this context, to ensure food security to the needy rural poor, the Government of India are introducing the Food for Work Programme. ThisProgramme will be in operation till 30th June,2001, and may be extended at the discretion of the Government of India.

OBJECTIVE

2. The Food for Work Programme, aims at augmenting food security through wage employmentin the drought affected rural areas in Eight States viz., Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal after due notification. It will be in operation in rural areas that are notified by the State Government as Drought affected.

3. The Government of India may extend the Food for Work Programme to the other areas as may be affected by the Natural Calamities such as Flood, Cyclone or Earthquake.

FUNDING

4. The Food-for-Work Programme will form a part of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Part of the wages will, however, be paid in the form of foodgrains, as indicated in Para 5 below. The cash component of the wage as well as the Material cost of the work will be provided by the State Governments from the EAS funds.

SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME

5. Government of India will make available appropriate quantity of foodgrains to each ofthe Drought affected States. The food grains will be supplied free of cost to the States, as an additionality, with a view to enabling the State Government to provide adequate wage employment opportunities to the needy rural poor. The Department of Food and Public Distribution willsupply the food grains free of cost to the States/UTs. The Statesmay make payment of wages partly in kind (up to 5 kgs. of food grains per manday) and partly in cash. The State Governments will be free to calculate the cost of food grains paid in wages, at either BPL rates, or APLrates or any where between these two rates. The workers will be paid the balance of wages in cash, such that they are assured of the notified Minimum wages. The free foodgrains will be treated as an additionality to the on-going Scheme of EAS.

PLAN OF ACTION

6. A Plan of Action for the Food for Work Programme, indicating the works to be taken and total requirement of food grain for five months (month-wise and district-wise) from February,2001 to June, 2001, will be prepared by the State Government and sent to the Ministry of Rural Development. Rice/ Wheat will be supplied as per the request of the State Government. The Ministry will scrutinize the requirement and then forward it to the Department of Food and Public Distribution with its recommendations. After scrutiny, the Department of Food and Public Distribution will duly send an appropriate advice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to release the food grains at the District Headquarters from its existing depots under intimation to the Ministry of Rural Development as well as the State Government. Food grains to be supplied to the State Government will be free of cost. Transportation of food grains from FCI godowns to the worksites would be the responsibility of the State Governments. The transportation and distribution cost will be borne by the State Government.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS

7. Supply of food grains will be made to the workmen at site. The official supervising the work (to be decided by the State Government) under the Food for Work Programme, will be responsible for the distribution of food grains at the work-site. The food grains will be supplied daily. In the event of the workmen are from one Habitation and if they choose to receive food grains in their village, the same could be organized. The Public Distribution System (PDS) outlets shall not be used for this Programme.

QUALITY CONTROL OF FOODGRAINS

8. The normal procedure by way of joint sampling as is done in case of PDS will operate. In case of any complaint, the sample from the field will be compared with the sample packet retained at FCI depot and action will be initiated against the concerned, if any discrepancy is established.

WORKS TO BE TAKEN UP

9. The Food-for-Work Programme being an integral part of the Employment Assurance Scheme, all the provisions of the EAS will apply. However, keeping in view the need to immediately respond to the exigencies of the situation, sanction of the works may be issued by the District Collector instead of Zilla Parishad. All the works taken up under this programme will however be included in the Annual Action Plan.

10. Since the objective of the Food for Work Programme is to provide wage employment, preference shall be given to labour-intensive works, particularly those that which would help drought-proofing such as moisture conservation works, watershed development works, water harvesting, digging up of ponds / tanks / de-silting of village Ponds / tanks and of water courses, etc. Works sanctioned should be such that they can be completed within 90 days.

11. Muster Rolls will be maintained for every work separately showing the details of wages (including food grains) given to the workers. All provisions of EAS shall apply in this regard.

12. Signboards should be displayed at the work site giving the details of the cost of the work, date of completion, funds actually utilized, name of the implementing Agency etc.

13. The assets created under the Programme would be maintained by the State Government or any agency to be designated by them. No funds will be provided by the Union Government for their maintenance.

SUPERVISION

14. While the provisions under EAS relating to supervision and monitoring will continue to be applicable, the State Government shall issue necessary guidelines designating appropriate authorities and detailing procedures to oversee the receipt, storage, transport and distribution of food grains under the Food for Work Programme.

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5084 ANSWER IN THE LOK SABH ON 20.04.2001.

STATEMENT SHOWING ALLOTMENT OF RICE & WHEAT UNDER FOOD FOR WORK IN DROUGHT AFFECTED A DURING 2000-2001.

FREE OF COST (Figures in Tonnes)

STATE	ALLOTMENT

	RICE	WHEAT	TOTAL
CHATTISGARH	207000	0	207000
GUJARAT	20000	70000	90000
HIMACHAL PRADESH	11549	0	11549
MAHARASHTRA	2000	8000	10000
MADHYA PRADESH	20079	43000	63079
ORISSA	100000	0	100000
RAJASTHAN	0	118145	118145
TOTAL	360628	239145	599773

AT BPL RATES

ORISSA	90600	0	90600
GUJARAT	15000	60000	75000
RAJSTHAN	0	150000	150000
ANDHRA PRADESH	36160	0	36160
CHATTISGARH	96600	0	96600
RAJSTHAN	0	252500	252500
TOTAL	238360	462500	700860